

## THE UNIVERSITÉ DE LYON IS TAKING PART IN THE FIRST U7+ ALLIANCE OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES SUMMIT, AND IS CO-CHAMPIONING THE PRIORITY, "INEQUALITY IN SOCIETIES"



Launching the U7+ Alliance of World Universities, June 5, 2019, © Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation

The first U7+ Alliance of World Universities summit was held in Paris, on July 9 and 10, 2019, representing a total of 2 million students globally. During the event, university presidents, including Khaled Bouabdallah, President of the Université de Lyon, detailed a roadmap to build and strengthen university initiatives on a global scale.

### A unique alliance to contribute to multilateral discussions

The U7+ Alliance of World Universities Summit was inaugurated on June 5 at Sciences Po Paris under the high patronage of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic. To date, it brings together the presidents of 49 institutions from 21 countries around the world.

The U7+ provides the University Presidents with a unique forum for discussion with regard to higher education and research. It encourages major universities around the world to demonstrate the

decisive role they play and their civic and social responsibility in addressing the major challenges included in the multilateral agenda.

### ***Commitments of the U7+ Alliance of World Universities presidents***

The mission statement, approved by the university presidents who are members of the U7+, stipulated six priorities to guide future initiatives:

- *"We recognize that the U7+ embodies our common will to identify and address the global challenges our contemporary societies face in order to accelerate the development of solutions."*

*We commit to pursuing joint action through the U7+, including meeting each year in the context of the G7 process, so that our actions can weigh in the discussions and contribute to making positive change a reality."*

- *"We recognize that our universities have a distinctive responsibility to train and nurture responsible and active citizens who will contribute to society, from the local to the global level."*
- *"We recognize that our universities have a major role to play in addressing the environmental issues and challenges to sustainability such as climate change, biodiversity and energy transition. This should include leading by example on our own campuses."*
- *"We recognize that universities have a distinctive and major responsibility in widening access to education and promoting inclusion and opportunity. We will also foster respectful and evidence-based public debate, in order to combat polarization in our society."*
- *"To engage with stakeholders and solve complex issues of global relevance we recognize that universities must promote interdisciplinary research and learning, in particular bridging in our research and teaching between social sciences, humanities, the life sciences and STEM disciplines."*
- *"We recognize that the U7+ has the power to serve as a lab to consolidate best practices that can be shared both within our network and more broadly with universities and similar institutions worldwide for inspiration."*

The member institutions of the U7+ committed to continue their joint action by meeting every year at the G7 summit to bring their initiatives into the discussions. The U7+ will remain open to universities in G7 countries and beyond, in order to promote inclusiveness.

These commitments were consolidated in a publication to close the summit. This document will be presented to Emmanuel Macron in order to contribute to the discussions that will be held during the next G7 summit in Biarritz, from August 24 to 26, 2019.

## The UdL co-champions a specific theme

The discussions were held over two days and explored five themes, each of which was addressed in its own panel discussion.

The Université de Lyon decided to focus its action on the priority "Inequality & Polarized Societies".

Led in close collaboration with the Université de Bordeaux, HEC Paris and the University of Ottawa, this working group will specifically focus on:

- The role universities have to play in an age of mistrust of knowledge and expertise;
- The question of social diversity;
- And finally, the role of universities in achieving equality between women and men.

Four other committees explored the themes of the key role of universities in a global world, climate change and energy transition, technological transformations, and community engagement and impact.

## Press contact

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## About the Université de Lyon

The Université de Lyon is a world-class academic site of excellence. Awarded the IDEX label in 2017, it is located at the heart of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, in Lyon & Saint-Étienne. Structured around 12 member institutions and several associated institutions, the Université de Lyon has three main objectives:

- To be a major, attractive and responsible university, with a reputation for excellence and innovation, and one which is enriched by strong international outreach;
- To provide outstanding training and research opportunities, in line with current social expectations and changes;
- And to develop and promote the dynamics of the Lyon Saint-Étienne site, in conjunction with all regional stakeholders: citizens, organizations, companies and all local authorities.